

new issue
with additions

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TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOR OF THE CANDIDATURE OF

MR. GRAEME MERCER ADAM,

FOR THE POSITION OF

Librarian of the Free Public Library, Toronto.

John Hallam

TORONTO, March, 1883.

From the RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, K.C.B., D.C.L., LL.D., Q.C., P.C.,
Premier of the Dominion.

STADACONA HALL,
OTTAWA, 20th February, 1883.

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

I have your note of the 14th instant, saying that you purpose applying for the position of Librarian of the new Free Public Library in your city. I am quite sure, from your long connection with literature, both as a business man and a student, that you would make a very good Librarian, and give satisfaction to the founders of the institution.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

JOHN A. MACDONALD.

G. MERCER ADAM, Esq.,
Oakleigh Cottage, Toronto.

From HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF TORONTO.

ST. MICHAEL'S PALACE,
TORONTO, February 27th, 1883.

DEAR MR. ADAM,

I heartily join with so many personages in appreciating your talents and literary acquirements. You appear to have all the qualifications required to launch into a healthy existence the Free Library of our City. I admire very much the judicious selection of books in the Librarian's list, which you had the goodness to send me. The selection of works is a vital point. It is safe, I am sure, in your hands, aided by the Committee; but you will have the initiative.

Please, my dear Mr. Adam, to accept the assurance of my high esteem.

Your obedient servant,

† JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH,
Archbishop of Toronto.

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOR OF THE CANDIDATURE OF

MR. GRAEME MERCER ADAM,

FOR THE POSITION OF

Librarian of the Free Public Library, Toronto.

From PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH, M.A., LL.D., D.C.L.

TORONTO, February 21st, 1883.

Mr. G. Mercer Adam possesses an extensive and practical acquaintance with books and with the book trade. This, added to his general acquirements and character, seems to me specially to fit him for the office of Librarian. The duties of that office are peculiar, and the qualifications for it, being perfectly distinct from those which commonly belong to the literary man, are rare. I doubt whether a more suitable person than Mr. Adam could easily be found.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

From the VERY REV. GEO. M. GRANT, D.D., *Principal and Vice-Chancellor Queen's University.*

KINGSTON, 10th February, 1883.

I have been acquainted with Mr. G. Mercer Adam for several years, and may at once say that, so far as my knowledge of men available for the position goes, I know no one so well qualified in every respect for the post of Librarian to the proposed Toronto Public Library.

Mr. Adam's knowledge of books is wide, accurate, and of a practical character, much needed during the formation of a library. He loves books with a sort of personal love. He has made many sacrifices to promote Canadian literature, and has done service in the cause that deserves recognition. And his geniality of disposition and his self-control eminently qualify him for a position that makes heavy and constant demands on the temper.

GEORGE MONRO GRANT,
Principal.

From the RIGHT REV. ARTHUR SWEATMAN, D.D., Lord Bishop of Toronto.

TORONTO, February 16th, 1883.

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

Learning that you are about to become a candidate for the Librarianship of the new Free Public Library to be established in the City, I gladly write a line to express my conviction, from an acquaintance with you extending over some seventeen years, of your peculiar fitness for such a post. Your life has been devoted not simply to the book trade, but to the study and promotion of literature; and your services, during many years, in the cause of Canadian literature, which are widely known and recognized throughout the country, as having raised it to a higher and more honorable position in the republic of Letters, would seem to entitle you to some substantial acknowledgment. I feel sure that the interests of the reading public would be well served by your appointment.

With my best wishes for the success of your candidature,

I am, yours very truly,

ARTHUR TORONTO.

From the HON. JOHN H. HAGARTY, D.C.L., Chief Justice (Q. B. Div.) High Court of Justice of Ontario.

TORONTO, February 14th, 1883.

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

I shall be very glad indeed to hear of your being appointed Librarian to the Free Public Library. I do not know of any one who could, as far as I know, perform the duties of such an office more efficiently than yourself. I have known you a great many years, since your connection with the book business began. Your knowledge was not confined to the mere mechanical part of the business. It was also a pleasure to me to converse with you on the subject of books, as you always showed a familiarity with the literature of the age, and the possession of a mind improved by reading and study. I trust you will be successful in obtaining the position of Librarian.

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN H. HAGARTY.

From the HON. OLIVER MOWAT, Q.C., LL.D., M.P.P., Premier of Ontario.

TORONTO, February 14th, 1883.

MY DEAR SIR,

I do not know who are the candidates for the Librarianship of the Free Public Library. I see your name mentioned in connection with the office, and I have much pleasure in saying that I think you would suit it extremely well, and that the Board would be fortunate if able to secure your services.

Yours truly,

O. MOWAT.

From the REV. S. S. NELLES, D.D., President of Victoria University, Cobourg.

COBOURG, February 17th, 1883.

Having learned that Mr. G. Mercer Adam is an applicant for the office of Librarian in the Toronto Free Public Library, I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to his eminent qualifications for the position. I have long known Mr. Adam, and have had good opportunities of ascertaining his knowledge of books, and of those matters connected with the management of a Public Library.

Indirectly, also, through the testimony of others on whose judgment I can safely rely, I have learned that Mr. Adam is excellently fitted for such a post. I very respectfully, but very earnestly, recommend him to the favourable consideration of the gentlemen entrusted with the selection of the Librarian of the Toronto Public Library.

S. S. NELLES,
President, University of Victoria College.

From the REV. HENRY SCADDING, D.D., author of "Toronto of Old," etc., etc.

TORONTO, February 16th, 1883.

Having just heard of the candidature of Mr. G. Mercer Adam for the Principal Librarianship of the proposed Free Library for Toronto, I take the liberty to say that should the Board of Management decide to appoint that gentleman to the position named, I feel sure his life-long, loving familiarity with literature, and his large practical acquaintance with all matters connected therewith, in the material and commercial points of view, would make his services in such a post most valuable, while his courtesy of manner, his readiness of memory and resource, and his facility and grace of style in literary composition, would render him acceptable to the general public, and contribute to the popularity of the new institution.

HENRY SCADDING.

From ALPHEUS TODD, Esq., C.B., LL.D., Librarian House of Commons, Ottawa.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT,

OTTAWA, 10th February, 1883.

MY DEAR SIR,

I should have been very glad to have contributed my mite in testimony of your special fitness for the post of Librarian of the proposed Free Library in Toronto, but that I had already written on behalf of another candidate.

It promises well for the advancement of the good cause of literature in Upper Canada that several men who, like yourself, undoubtedly possess peculiar qualifications for the office, are desirous of rendering their aid to the public in promoting the establishment of Free Libraries in Ontario.

With much regard,

I am, yours sincerely,

ALPHEUS TODD.

From E. A. MEREDITH, Esq., LL.D., late Deputy Minister of the Interior, Ottawa.

ROSEDALE, TORONTO. *February 28th, 1883.*

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

I am very glad indeed to see that you are a candidate for the office of Librarian of the proposed Free Library of this City, and, in the interest of the institution, I sincerely hope that you will obtain it. Your remarkable knowledge of books, both in their literary and commercial aspects, your cultivated literary taste, your courteous disposition, point you out as eminently qualified for the position. Such an appointment would be hailed with satisfaction throughout the Dominion as some slight recognition of the great services you have rendered to the cause of Literature and Education in Canada.

The success of the Free Library must largely depend upon the choice of the first Librarian; and it would be difficult, I am sure, to find any one possessing so many qualifications for the office as yourself.

Believe me, very sincerely yours,

E. A. MEREDITH. ✓

From JOHN GEO. BOURINOT, Esq., B.A., F.R.S.C., etc., the Clerk of the House of Commons.

OTTAWA, *27th February, 1883.*

DEAR MR. ADAM,

I have heard from several of my Toronto friends that you have applied for the position of Librarian of the Free Public Library at Toronto. I trust that those gentlemen who have the matter in charge will recognize the value of the services you have rendered to Canadian Literature. With your large knowledge of books, and your earnest desire to promote intellectual culture in this country, you would be able to place the new Library on an assured popular basis. I hope for the sake of the institution that you will attain a position which, I confess, will be but a small reward for all you have done in the past.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN GEO. BOURINOT.

From the REV. D. J. MACDONNELL, B.D., Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto.

ST. ANDREW'S MANSE,

TORONTO, *27th February, 1883.*

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

I am heartily glad that you are a candidate for the position of Librarian of the Free Public Library. From your thorough and extensive acquaintance with books, of which I have had many opportunities of judging, as well as from your knowledge of the book trade, I think you are eminently fitted for the post. Should you receive the appointment, the omen would be a good one for the Free Library. You have my best wishes for the success of your candidature.

Yours very truly,

D. J. MACDONNELL.

From the REV. JAS. F. SHERATON, D.D., Principal of Wycliffe College, Toronto.

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE, TORONTO.

March 1st, 1883.

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

I would have written to you some little time ago had I obeyed my first impulse when I heard your name mentioned in connection with the Librarianship of the Public Library. The more readily do I write now. You have, in my judgment, the three essential qualifications for the office—enthusiasm, knowledge, and patience.

You are not more an ardent lover of books than you are an enthusiast in the cause of education; and I know of no one who could more wisely and intelligently direct the potent influences of a Public Library, and make them tributary to the true education and advancement of our citizens. Sincerely believing you to be well fitted for this responsible and important office, I express my earnest hope that it may be conferred upon you.

JAS. P. SHERATON,

Principal, Wycliffe College.

From GEO. R. R. COCKBURN, ESQ., M.A., late Principal Upper Canada College, Toronto.

TORONTO, February 28th, 1883.

I have known Mr. G. Mercer Adam for many years, and feel pleasure in being able to state that I know no person in Canada so well qualified in every respect to discharge satisfactorily the duties of the Librarianship of the Toronto Public Library.

Mr. Adam possesses the rare advantage of a very extensive and practical acquaintance with books and with the book trade. His appointment will, I think, be hailed with great satisfaction by all interested in the success of our Free Library.

GEORGE R. R. COCKBURN.

From the REV. PROF. GREGG, D.D., Knox College, Toronto.

TORONTO, 28th February, 1883.

I have known Mr. G. Mercer Adam for a good many years, and am well satisfied that his scholarly tastes and long experience in literary pursuits qualify him, in an eminent measure, for the position of Librarian for the Free Library of Toronto.

WM. GREGG.

From SAMUEL E. DAWSON, ESQ., *Publisher, Montreal, author of "A Study of Tennyson's Princess," etc., etc.*

MONTREAL, February 28th, 1883.

DEAR SIR,

It gives me much pleasure to hear that you are a candidate for the position of Librarian of the new Free Public Library of Toronto, for I know that you possess those peculiar qualities which can render such an institution successful.

Such a position demands many qualifications which are seldom found in one person to the same extent as they are found in you.

A Librarian should be scholarly, but not merely a scholar. He should be a widely read man but not a deeply learned man, for he cannot well be both. He should be perfectly familiar with everything concerning the manufacture of books, because he will have to care for their protection and preservation. He should be familiar with all the channels of the book trade, because he must be a large purchaser. He should have a wide experience of life in the community where he is to work, because he must make the library popular and useful, and, while caring for the safety of the books, not vex the public with useless and burdensome rules. Last, and also first of all, he must have born in him a love of books—a love of them for the information they contain—then he will necessarily have a habit of quickly appreciating the contents of books, and a ready memory.

I do not know any person in Canada who possesses all these qualifications to nearly the same extent as you; and if the City of Toronto should select you for the position I shall consider it a very fortunate choice.

Yours truly,

SAMUEL E. DAWSON.

From JOHN READE, ESQ., F.R.S.C., *Literary Editor of the Montreal "Gazette," author of "The Prophecy of Merlin, and other Poems," etc.*

135 ST. ANDRE STREET,
MONTREAL, February 28th, 1883.

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

I see that you are a candidate for the Librarianship of the new Free Library in Toronto. I am very glad of it—both for your own sake, as I think it is a position that will suit your experience and tastes—and also for the sake of the community that will have the benefit of your services. Indeed, from what I know of your character and literary work, not to speak of your acquaintance with the business phases of literature, I know of no one who could assume the oversight of such an institution with better hope of giving personal satisfaction.

Hoping to hear before long that the matter has been decided in your favor,

I remain, with sincere respect,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN READE.

From CHARLES LINDSEY, Esq., F.R.S.C., author of "*Life of Wm. Lyon Mackenzie*,"
etc., etc.

TORONTO, February 14th, 1883.

MY DEAR ADAM,

I am glad to learn that you are to be a candidate for the position of Librarian of the Free Library, and I heartily wish you may be successful. In such an enterprise much depends on the choice of a capable librarian, and few amongst us combine within themselves the knowledge of two things which above all others a librarian ought to possess—a trade knowledge of books and a literary knowledge of books. Of an old and established library the duties of a librarian are more restricted than they will be here. The selection of a library requires the special knowledge of a bibliographer, and I conceive that you are in this, and in every other respect, well qualified for the position to which you honorably aspire. Under the Free Library Law Toronto is the first to make the experiment, and upon the success of this first essay in aid of Canadian literature, the multiplication of these libraries will depend. It is of the greatest importance, therefore, that the librarian to be chosen should be one thoroughly qualified for his duties. Again wishing you success.

I am, yours truly,

CHARLES LINDSEY.

From W. D. LESUEUR, Esq., B.A., Ottawa.

OTTAWA, 13th February, 1883.

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

I see that your name is mentioned in connection with the Librarianship of the proposed Free Library at Toronto. If the situation is one which you would care to accept, I sincerely hope, in the interest of the Library, that you may obtain it. I do not see how a better choice could possibly be made. Your almost unrivalled knowledge of books, as well as your interest in books, would in such a situation be of the highest value; while your appointment would be a guarantee for the intelligent and impartial management of the institution. There is no one certainly whom the literary men of this country would more desire to see placed in such a position than yourself, and I may add that there is no one who has better earned such a recognition of his services to the cause of Canadian letters.

The Library, no doubt, when established, will be on a scale proportioned to the population and wealth of the City of Toronto. I trust it may be in every respect successful, and to ensure its success I could not think of anything better than to make you its first Librarian.

Believe me, very faithfully yours,

W. D. LESUEUR.

From JOHN SEATH, ESQ., B.A., *Principal Collegiate Institute, St. Catharines.*

ST. CATHARINES, *February 14th, 1883.*

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

I have much pleasure in expressing a high opinion of your fitness for the Librarianship of the Free Library of Toronto. Your excellent literary taste and extensive acquaintance with books, as well as your courteous and obliging disposition, eminently qualify you for the office; and, in appointing you, the Board will, I am confident, do credit to itself and secure for the public a faithful and efficient servant.

Believe me, yours sincerely,

JOHN SEATH.

From the REV. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., *Editor of the "Canadian Methodist Magazine."*

TORONTO, *3rd February, 1883.*

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

* * * * * My friend Dr. Nelles wrote me about your candidature. I think you have especial claims from your familiarity with the literary and commercial value of books, and the distinguished services you have rendered to Canadian literature. These considerations, I am sure, will weigh heavily with the appointing Directorate.

Yours very sincerely,

W. H. WITHROW.

From ARCHIBALD MACMURCHY, ESQ., M.A., *Rector of the Collegiate Institute, Toronto.*

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, TORONTO, *14th February, 1883.*

I beg to state that I have known Mr. G. Mercer Adam for a number of years. From his scholarly habits and extensive practical knowledge of books, I think him eminently fitted for the post of Librarian of the Free Public Library in the City of Toronto.

ARCHIBALD MACMURCHY, M.A.

From JOHN LOVELL, ESQ., *Publisher, Montreal.*

MONTREAL, *28th January, 1883.*

MY DEAR MR. ADAM,

I learn, through the press, that you are to have a Free Public Library. Such a boon should be hailed by all with feelings of gratitude. I should be pleased to hear of yourself as candidate for the position of Librarian, as I doubt if there be any so well qualified to fill it.

Your acknowledged literary attainments, your thorough acquaintance with authors and publishers, and your constant efforts in the cause of education, added to your own sterling qualities, give you advantages that few possess. Under your management, with a collection of books such as you would secure, Toronto would have reason to be proud of her Library, and, indeed, of her Librarian.

Trusting that I may soon hear of your appointment,

Believe me, yours sincerely,

JOHN LOVELL. ✓

PRESS NOTICES OF MR. ADAM'S EDITORIAL WORK.

The CANADIAN MONTHLY and Mr. ADAM'S Editorship.

"Now that the MONTHLY is suspended (we shall not say it is dead) the more intelligent class of the people will probably recognize that it has, in the course of ten years, been of great service to the writers of this country, and to those readers who have maintained a healthy interest in native literature. How many young writers have found in the Editor of the 'Canadian Monthly' a valuable counsellor and friend; how many of them have had their earliest literary successes in the columns of the magazine. Looking back over the volumes, we can recall an amount of good writing in prose and verse, greater in proportion than has appeared in magazines over the border, which have had great financial success. In fact the aim of the editor was too high; and his contributors so much in earnest, and so desirous of doing their best, that they narrowed the field of intellectual interest and ignored the readers who are greatest in numbers, who are *not* intellectual at all, and who want only to be amused. There is more scholarship, more literary skill, more true poetical talent, in any given volume of this unsuccessful magazine than could be found in any given volume of most magazines of its mixed character. The truth is, that in all probability, but for Mr. Adam's constant, earnest, anxious, and intelligent care, the venture would never have lasted for the decade it has witnessed."—*Martin J. Griffin, Esq., Editor of the Toronto "Mail" (July 5, 1882).*

"THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY. Edited by G. Mercer Adam. (Toronto: The Canada Educational Monthly Publishing Co.)—This magazine is an excellent reflex of the national system of education in which every loyal Canadian justly glories. The present number is one of great excellence. It contains a number of well-written articles, all directly relating to the objects the 'Educational Monthly' seeks to promote. They are all of them short, lucid, and to the point. * * * The gem of the number, however, is 'Recent Canadian Literature,' from the pen of the accomplished editor, whose literary style possesses a rare and attractive beauty, the result of an ardent love of literature, a cultured mind, and a wide acquaintance with all that is most valuable and enduring in the republic of letters."—*Canada Presbyterian.*

"Nothing is a more striking demonstration of the educational progress of Canada, than the appearance of such a high class and ably edited monthly as this, devoted especially to educational subjects. Mr. Adam brings to his task a cultured taste, a practised pen, wide bibliographic knowledge, long connection with publishing, and a deep interest in educational matters, and in our native literature."—*Canadian Methodist Magazine.*

"This excellent serial (THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY), or which we appear to have no equivalent in the mother country, is indicative of the great attention bestowed upon public education in Canada. * * * THE MONTHLY is well edited."—*Education (London, England).*

"THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY, published at Toronto, is one of the most interesting and useful serials in the Dominion. It deals with educational matters in a broad and catholic spirit, is well written throughout, its several departments are carefully edited and kept up, and its staff of contributors comprises some of the best names in our literature. * * * Mr. G. Mercer Adam, the editor, is one of the ablest of Canadian literary men, and his fine taste and liberal spirit must ensure for the 'Educational Monthly' a wide and influential circulation among cultured people."—George Stewart, Jr., Esq., F.R.S.C., in *Quebec Chronicle*.

"We welcome the appearance of a new Canadian magazine in the interest of education. Judging by the number before us, we would say that it is entirely worthy of the support of teachers and all those interested in education. The Reviews are written by an experienced pen, and the Editorial department is ably conducted."—*Montreal Gazette*.

"Teachers and others will hail with pleasure the advent of Mr. G. Mercer Adam's EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY. It has been urgently needed in the interest of education, and arrives not a whit too soon to be of eminent service, if we can trust the promise of the first number. * * * The Contributors' department, the Arts department, Contemporary Literature, and Editorial Notes make up one of the most interesting as well as the most useful periodicals to teachers, and indeed to everyone interested in education and literature, which has ever been started in this country. We wish Mr. Adam every success in his enterprise, and hope sincerely that he will receive in large measure that material encouragement which his aims eminently deserve and entitle him to expect."—*Canadian Spectator*.

"We are glad to observe that the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY maintains the high character with which it set out. We know no other educational journal of equal merit. It would be a credit to any country, and is a journal of which Canada should be proud."—*Canadian Methodist Magazine*.

"This is a high-class 'independent magazine, published in the interests of education and of the teaching profession' in the Dominion of Canada. It is well edited, and has a staff of contributors of great breadth of mind, and liberal, expanded views in the discussion of those problems which surround the question of education. English teachers might find much to interest them in this journal."—*Educational Chronicle*, London and Manchester, England.

The *Montreal Gazette*, for March 10th, says: "THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY does more than maintain the high standard, both moral and literary, with which it started. It has been the means of doing a good work among the educators and friends of education throughout the Dominion, and is in every respect creditable to those who have charge of it."

"This new educational journal has been published 'at the request of many of the profession and of those concerned in Canadian school work,' by Mr. G. Mercer Adam, whose successful editorship of the *Canadian Monthly* is a guarantee of the literary excellence of the magazine, while the enthusiastic support he has received from the leading members of the teaching body shows that he has undertaken to supply a want. * * * We are doing the enterprise only justice when we say that such a magazine would be a credit to any community. No such periodical in connection with education has appeared in Canada, and, so far as we are aware, there are none superior to it anywhere, in either execution or ability."—*Toronto Mail*.

"The country has long needed a magazine that would minister to the higher wants of education, and at the same time foster and direct into right methods the efforts of even the humblest teachers. The CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY supplies this need; and we do trust that there is enough educational enthusiasm in the country to give it the support necessary to carry it through. The comprehensiveness of view and the firmness of grasp with which the magazine approaches its proposed work, the ability displayed in its editorials and contributions, and the chaste beauty of its mechanical execution, ought to recommend it to a very large constituency of intelligent men throughout our Dominion."—*Canada Presbyterian*.

"The February number of the CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY keeps up its excellent appearance, and contains a number of timely and interesting papers on educational topics. This monthly promises to be a magazine of great interest, not only to educationists, but to the general public. It shows itself worthy of a generous support."—*London Advertiser*.

[The following letter, published over four years ago, is reprinted as an indication of the writer's interest in the subject of a Free Public Library, and of his effort to have one established in Toronto.]

From the TORONTO "MAIL," October 1st, 1878.

A DUFFERIN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

To the Editor of the Mail.

SIR,—May I venture to occupy your columns with the suggestion of commemorating, in Toronto, the period of Lord Dufferin's administration in Canada—now unhappily at a close—by the founding and endowing of a great want in the community—a free public library. At his Lordship's final departure from amongst us, the suggestion seems timely, as well as, I think, appropriate, that we should seek, while the inspiring influences of his presence are yet upon us, and his wise words still in our ears, to mark the epoch of his beneficent rule in Canada by some enterprise that will fittingly recall the period of his vice-regal administration, and bespeak the interest he has unceasingly felt in the national, intellectual and social weal of the country.

It seems to me, that with the necessity that exists for a public reference and lending library in the city,—one befitting the capital of the Province and representing the intelligence and literary tastes of its citizens—the founding of such an institution bearing the name of His Excellency, and reminding us of his almost passionate interest in all that connects itself with the educational and social well-being of the Dominion, as well as of his hearty interest in its national and civic life, would be an enterprise that would not only evidence the public spirit of our townspeople, but be an appreciated compliment to Lord Dufferin.

The need of such an institution increases with every year's growth of the city, and its importance as an engine of education, and a means of giving intellectual nutriment to the people, can hardly be over-estimated. As an adjunct to our common school system, too, it would give completeness to our efforts in the cause of universal education and popular enlightenment. Once organized and equipped, the annual charge for its maintenance would add but a trifle to the school rates, which no one would begrudge; while its benefits, in extending the aim and widening the range of education, would, besides its other advantages, add materially to the results of school work and of intelligent effort in self-advancement. But the expediency of the project should enlist the sympathy and co-operation of the whole community, for all are interested, or should be, in possessing a well-endowed and comprehensive public library, with its adjuncts of reading-room, lecture-room, and a department for works of consultation and reference.

The few educational and professional libraries we have in our midst, I need hardly say, by no means serve the purpose of a central city library, free of access, and

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affording to the community the advantages which the wide-spread dissemination of wholesome literature, through such machinery, would provide it with. Neither have we any other adequate provision for securing such a boon to the people as a free library would be, and such as has become so much an "institution" in the larger cities of England and the United States. The practical matter, however, is, how can an enterprise of the kind be put on foot? In most instances, the public city libraries of England and the other side—such as those of Manchester and of Boston—owe the nucleus of their organization to the wise and generous endowment of private citizenship. Building upon this, the substantial acquirements of a public-spirited people have made them what they now are. Without aiming to rival these libraries, in either cost or extent, it should not be beyond our effort to organize, within our means, a modified copy of them. It only wants vigorous and concerted action, and the exercise of a reasonable liberality upon the part of the citizens to accomplish the object. For the rest, as I have indicated, a minute addition to the school tax would suffice to give the scheme permanent life. Taking advantage of Lord Dufferin's presence among us, I have thought that the initiation of a practical effort to supply Toronto with a great public library might be a gratifying response to His Excellency's stimulus to individual and civic endeavour in the advancement of our country, to which he has himself so largely contributed, and, by associating his name with the undertaking, to pay a suitable compliment to him for all he has done in the interest of education in Canada, and the impetus he has given, with such felicitous eloquence, to its intellectual and aspirational life.

I am, sir, faithfully yours,

G. MERCER ADAM.

Toronto, 27th September, 1878.